

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-2, 5, 9-11 and 13-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by admitted prior art Figure 2. Claims 1-2, 5-6 and 9-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Oberholzer. Claims 1-2, 5-6 and 9-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kiyobumi (JP 09-205004). Finally, claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art Figure 2 or Kiyobumi. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, for example, recites that each of Applicants' side sections are:

... connected to each of said pair of electrodes along a substantial portion of a length of said pair of electrodes ...

This feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by any of the art of record. By connecting the side sections "along a substantial portion of a length" of said pair of electrodes, Applicants' claim 1 is distinguishable from the art of record. The "substantial portion" is intended to mean along a majority of said length. In each of the references of record, the connection is not along the majority of the length. This feature is supported, for example, by Applicants' Figure 1 and 2 where it is shown that the side sections are connected along the majority of the length. Claim 6 and 11 similarly include the above feature. Thus, Applicants' independent claims (and dependent claims dependent thereon) are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth above.

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the courtesy extended to their representative by Examiner Easthom during the telephone interview last month. During the course of the interview, the Examiner and Applicants' representative informally agreed upon further features which were distinguishable over the art of record. Claims 1, 6 and 11 have been rewritten as new claims 18, 19, and 20 and which include the features agreed to during the telephone interview. Allowance of those claims is respectfully requested.

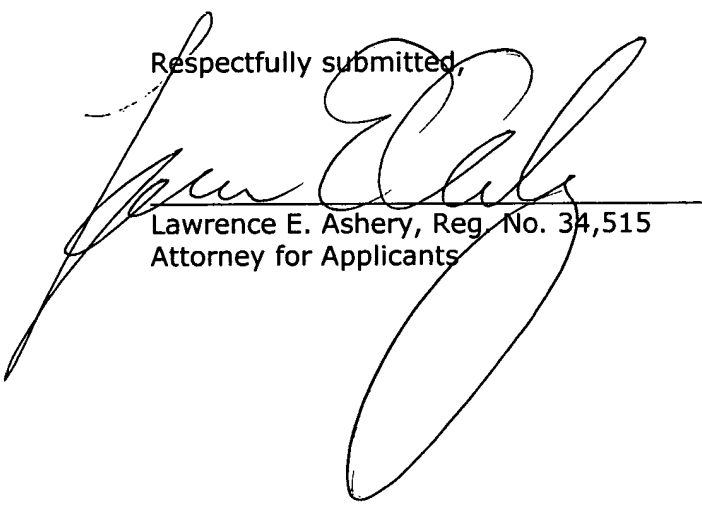
Claims 21-23 are newly added and simply refer to the "majority" feature described above and illustrated in Applicants' Figure 1 and Figure 2.

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Reply to Office Action of March 2, 2005

MAT-8140US

In view of the arguments and newly added claims set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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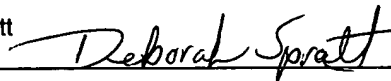
Dated: July 5, 2005

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 5, 2005.

Deborah Spratt



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